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ABSTRACT

This report on the activities of the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse during the time period between July 1, 1990, and June 30, 1991, begins with a summary of data on challenges against library materials reported to the clearinghouse during this time period. Details about each challenge reported by public libraries and school library media centers during the year are then given. It is noted that the clearinghouse has collected data about intellectual freedom challenges since 1987, and a 4-year overview is included in this annual report. In addition, the report includes information about assistance provided by the clearinghouse and cooperative and educational activities in which the clearinghouse was involved. It is also noted that the clearinghouse received the American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) State Program Award in 1991. Completing the report is an index to all of the challenged library materials reported to the clearinghouse between 1987 and 1991 together with an indication of the decision reached in each case, i.e., restrict, retain, remove, reclassify, or pending. The index also provides a reference to the annual report which contains the information about each challenge. (MAB)

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# *Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse*

## *Fourth Annual Report*

*July 1, 1990 - June 30, 1991*

*Coordinator, Mary Ginnane*
*Acting Library Development Administrator*

Oregon State Library
Salem, Oregon
1992

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## *Table of Contents*

Goal, Objectives, Scope, and Methodology of the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse ..... ii

Introduction ..... 1

Summary of Challenges Reported in 1990-91 ..... 2

Details about Reported Challenges: Challenges in Public Libraries ..... 4

Details about Reported Challenges: Challenges in School Library Media Centers ..... 12

Four Year Overview ..... 19

Information Requests in 1990-91 ..... 24

Cooperative and Educational Activities ..... 25

Clearinghouse Award ..... 27

Index to Challenges, 1987 – 1991 ..... 28

### *Goal of the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse*

The goal of the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse is to uphold the principles of the Library Bill of Rights in all types of libraries, by improving communication between librarians, board members, professional associations, and other concerned groups in Oregon about challenges to intellectual freedom, and by increasing awareness as to how threats to intellectual freedom can be overcome.

### *Objectives of the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse*

- To establish a central clearinghouse to collect and disseminate reports about challenges to intellectual freedom in all types of Oregon libraries.

- To provide information about challenged materials to public library directors and library board members, school media center librarians, and academic librarians, when requests for reconsideration of materials are formally registered.

- To provide information to public library directors and library board members, school media center librarians, and academic librarians about establishing appropriate policies and procedures before a challenge to intellectual freedom occurs.

- To cooperate with other persons and groups concerned with intellectual freedom or related issues.

### *Scope of the Clearinghouse and Methodology*

- The scope of the data collected is limited to formal challenges against any type of library material in any type of Oregon library. A formal challenge is defined here as a written "Request for Reconsideration" or "Statement of Concern" submitted by a group or individual to a library.

- The Clearinghouse reports details about challenges as they are recorded on "Reconsideration Report" forms submitted by library or school staff, or occasionally by citizens. Further information about details is obtained from newspaper reports, if available. In a few instances, newspaper articles are the sole source of information about a challenge. Editorial license is employed in transcribing details from the forms to the annual report.

# *Fourth Annual Report*
## *of the*
## *Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse*

### *Introduction*

The *Fourth Annual Report* of the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse describes Clearinghouse activities during the time period between July 1, 1990 and June 30th, 1991. The report begins with a summary of data about challenges against library materials reported to the Clearinghouse in 1990-91. The details about each challenge reported by public libraries and school library media centers in 1990-91 follows. The Clearinghouse has collected data about intellectual freedom challenges since 1987, and a four year overview is included in this year's annual report. The *Fourth Annual Report* includes information about assistance provided by the Clearinghouse, and cooperative and educational activities in which the Clearinghouse was involved in 1990-91. An announcement about an award the Clearinghouse won in 1991 follows. Completing the *Fourth Annual Report* is an index to all the challenged library materials reported to-date to the Clearinghouse. The index provides a reference to which annual report contains the details about each challenge.

## *Summary of Challenges Reported in 1990-91*

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse received reports about 54 formal challenges to library materials between July 1, 1990 and June 30th, 1991. The formats of materials challenged included 49 books, one newspaper, one videotape, one book-on-tape, and one book/tape set. In addition, one library received a challenge objecting to children's access to all materials for adults in the library. This incident is reported below as one challenge.

Public libraries experienced thirty-three of the challenges and school libraries experienced twenty-one challenges. Thirty-three of the challenged materials were designated as children's and young adult materials and twenty-one were materials for adults. In 45 of the 54 challenges, staff, committees, library boards, or school boards decided that the challenged materials should be retained. In one instance staff chose to reclassify a book. Final decisions removed materials from libraries in seven challenges. Three of the removals involved books which were not individually selected by library staff but had been received by the library as part of a large paperback order. The challenge against one title is still in progress and a final decision is pending.

The largest number of objections to library materials in 1990-91 focused on sexual references and themes and graphic language. Twenty-one challenges voiced these objections. Stories or illustrations that were considered too scary or violent

for children were challenged six times. Books with perceived occult, witchcraft, or satanic references were challenged eleven times. Other challenges objected to religious materials being purchased with public funds, racial stereotypes, portrayal of drug use, undermining of parental authority, and stories considered to lower children's self-esteem.

The Clearinghouse attempts to document challenges which are initiated by organized groups. Declared members of two organizations, the Portland American Family Association and the National Alliance for Mental Health, initiated challenges during 1990-91. All the other challenges were reported to be initiated by individuals.

## *Details about Reported Challenges*

Specific information about the challenges reported to the Clearinghouse in 1990-91 is given below, organized according to library type and arranged alphabetically by name of the library where the challenges occurred. Under the name of each library the titles challenged are listed in chronological order according to the date when decisions about the challenges were finalized. Under the summary of events, the phrase "Staff review process" refers to adopted procedures by which library staff read or view the material, collect reviews and other information about the material, and make the initial decision about the challenged item. This procedure is more common in public libraries. Generally, the library director writes a letter informing the patron of the decision,

and explaining the appeals process, in case the citizen is not satisfied with the decision. The phrase "Committee review process" refers to adopted procedures by which a committee, such as an Instructional Materials Review Committee, makes the initial decision about the challenged item. This procedure is more common in schools. Generally, the school board makes the final decision based on a recommendation from the Committee.

***Challenges in Public Libraries***

Clatskanie Library District, Clatskanie

- *Tender is the Storm* by Johanna Lindsey (Adult)

  Summary of objections: Paperback romance cover picture with a male nude was considered pornographic.

  Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, 8/20/90. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *Her Father's Daughter* by Jean Stratton Porter (Adult)

  Summary of objections: Concern expressed that book was racist and bigoted against the Japanese.

  Summary of events: Staff review process. Book removed, 4/19/91.

- *A Girl from Yamhill* by Beverly Cleary

  Summary of objections: Concern expressed about location of this book in children's section in view of the chapter which suggests inappropriate sexual behavior by uncle toward niece.

  Summary of events: Staff review process. Book reclassified in adult section, 5/24/91.

Douglas County Library System, Roseburg

- *The Hog Book* by William Hedgepeth (Adult)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed about profanity, smut-ish humor, and mention of condoms; not suitable for 4-H'ers researching how to raise pigs; suggested that catalog number should be changed.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained without change in catalog number but more specific subject heading referring to satire added, 1/8/91. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

Eugene Public Library, Eugene

- *Herbs & Things* by Jeanne Rose (Adult)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed that book advocated recreational drug use of herbs.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Doctors and herbalists consulted. Book retained, 1990. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *The Severed Soul* by Herbert Strean and Lucy Freeman (Adult)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed by a member of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill that the book asserts that schizophrenia is caused by environmental factors rather than biological factors.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, 2/91. Letter sent offering to consider purchase of recommended materials with the alternative viewpoint; books purchased; no further appeal filed. The NAMI newsletter featured this challenge and the outcome in a report entitled, "Librarians are Friends and Allies."

- *Miracle Game* by Josef Skvorecky (Adult)

Summary of objections: Reader considered a description of gonococci infection graphic and distasteful; suggested labeling to identify it as containing graphic sexual descriptions.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, labeling rejected, 5/6/91. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

Hillsboro Public Library, Hillsboro

- *Changing Bodies, Changing Lives* by Ruth Bell (Young adult)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed that this 1980 edition did not contain any information about acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book replaced with newer edition, 6/7/91.

Ledding Library, Milwaukie

- *I Am Joseph* by Barbara Cohen (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Four members of a group – Portland American Family Association – objected that the book was erotic and blasphemous and had no socially redeeming value. A newspaper article quoted the group leader as saying he protested the book in response to an alert in a newsletter of the Christian Coalition in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, 6/6/91. Letter sent; appeal process was investigated but no appeal request was filed.

Malheur County Library, Ontario

- *I Know I'm A Witch* by David Adler (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed about the witch theme, that the book undermines parental authority, and that dangerous potions are given to someone in the book.

Summary of events: Staff reviewed the book and made a recommendation to retain it to the Library Board. Book retained, 10/90.

Multnomah County Library, Portland

- *Children's Access to Adult Materials*

Summary of objections: An individual wanted to prohibit access by children to adult materials "which they would be banned from viewing because of age."

Summary of events: Library Director received the "Statement of Concern" and responded with a letter reaffirming the library's commitment to open access for all ages, 8/8/90. No further appeal filed.

- *They Were Strong and Good* by Robert Lawson (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed that the book glorifies racism and slavery practiced by the author's ancestors. Classification in a category of "American Racism" or "History of Race Relations" suggested.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained without special categorization, 8/22/90.

- *Tapping the Vein, Book 2* by Clive Barker (Adult)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed about the graphic language, violence, and sexual content.

Summary of events: Staff review process. The book had been purchased by the library as part of a large shipment of paperbacks. Book removed because it had not been specifically ordered by title for the collection, 9/17/90.

- *Mariska II,* Anonymous (Adult)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed about graphic descriptions of sexual acts.

Summary of events: Staff review process. The book had been purchased by the library as part of a large shipment of paperbacks. Book removed because it had not been specifically ordered by title for the collection, 9/17/90.

- *Caroline,* Anonymous (Adult)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed about graphic descriptions of sexual acts.

Summary of events: Staff review process. The book had been purchased by the library as part of a large shipment of paperbacks. Book removed because it had not been specifically ordered by title for the collection, 9/17/90.

- *Shy Charles* by Rosemary Wells (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed that the mother in the book was very negative towards her shy son; lowered self-esteem.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained , 9/21/90. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *Single Solutions* by Charlotte E. Thompson, M.D. (Adult)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed about a technical error in the book's information.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained pending release of a new edition, 9/27/90. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *My Life As A Body* by Norma Klein (Young Adult)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed that the book was too explicit and not appropriate for high school age students.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, 9/27/90. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *The Lake* by John Payton Cooke (Adult/Young Adult)

  Summary of objections: Concern expressed that the book was overly violent; unsuitable for young adults.

  Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, 10/12/90. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *Suspects* by William Caunitz (Adult, Audio Recording)

  Summary of objections: Concern expressed about graphic language and sexual content on the recording which had no label indicating explicit content.

  Summary of events: Staff review process. Tape retained; labeling rejected, 11/5/90. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *Humbug Potion by* Lorna Balian (Juvenile)

  Summary of objections: Concern expressed that the book promotes witchcraft and other satanic images to young impressionable children.

  Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, 1/28/91. Letter sent ; no further appeal filed.

- *The Witch's Handbook* by Malcolm Bird (Juvenile)

  Summary of objections: Concern expressed that the book promotes witches and witchcraft.

  Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, 3/6/91; Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *Improvised Radio Jamming Techniques* by Lawrence W. Myers (Adult)

  Summary of objections: Concern expressed that the book outlines covert methods of radio communications interference and suggests using the information for illegal acts.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, 3/13/91. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *Official Catholic Directory,* Kenedy, editor (Adult)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed about purchasing religious books with public monies.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, 3/12/91. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible,* Elwell, editor (Adult)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed about purchasing religious books with public monies.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, 3/12/91. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

Salem Public Library, Salem

- *Bumps in the Night* by Harry Allard (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed that the book is too scary for children.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, 11/27/90. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *5 Chinese Brothers* by Claire Bishop (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed that racial stereotypes were demeaning to Chinese people.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, 11/27/90. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *In A Dark, Dark Room* by Alvin Schwartz (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed that the book is too scary for first grade children and is of poor quality.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, 11/28/90. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *Bear Stories* by Edward Dolch (Juvenile)

  Summary of objections: Concern expressed that the book is too violent.

  Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, 11/28/90. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *Annie On My Mind* by Nancy Garden (Young Adult)

  Summary of objections: Concern expressed about lesbian love relationship between teenage girls, that the book is morally wrong.

  Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained, 11/29/90. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *IT* by Stephen King (Adult)

  Summary of objections: Parent and teenager objected to obscene language and homosexual acts in the story; requested restriction to those 18 years and older.

  Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained without restriction, 4/18/91. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

- *Presumed Innocent* by Scott Turow (Adult)

  Summary of objections: Concern expressed about explicit sexual content; rating system to alert readers to explicit content recommended.

  Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained without labeling, 6/7/91. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

Springfield Public Library, Springfield

- *Encyclopedia Brown: The Boy Detective in the Case of the Missing Time Capsule,* Media Home Entertainment (Juvenile, Video)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed that the fighting was made to look comic and that the scene where a boy guesses the color of a girl's underwear was offensive and ignored a person's right to privacy.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Video retained, 11/90. Letter sent; no further appeal filed.

***Challenges in School Library Media Centers***

Beaver Elementary School, Beaver

- *Night Riding* by Katherine Martin (Young Adult)

Summary of objections: The story of incest and battering in a 1958 setting does not offer helpful solutions to today's students about these issues; shame and denial emphasized; inappropriate language.

Summary of events: Committee review process. Parent requesting reconsideration offered suggestion of inserting a list of phone numbers in the book which are information resources about incest and physical violence; list submitted for Committee review. Committee recommended that the book be retained with list of information phone numbers. Book retained with addition of information phone numbers but without cover jacket in decision by School Board, 8/5/91.

Beaverton School District, Beaverton

- *The Witches* by Roald Dahl (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Witch characters and theme.

Summary of events: Challenged in elementary school library where staff review process is the initial procedure. Book retained in decision by Principal. Citizen appealed the decision and Materials Review Committee considered the appeal. Book retained in decision by Committee, 3/91.

- *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Family Health,* Marshall Cavendish Publishers

Summary of objections: Line drawings of sexual intercourse positions in one volume were considered objectionable; removal of entire set requested.

Summary of events: Challenged in intermediate school library where staff review process is the initial procedure. Set removed from library but retained for staff use in decision by Principal, 3/91.

Bend-La Pine School District

- *Porcelain Cat* by Michael Patrick Hearn (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed about witch theme and blood of serpents.

Summary of events: Committee review process. Committee recommended that the book be retained. Book retained in decision by School Board, 11/13/90.

- *Anna Witch* by Madeline Edmondson (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed about witch theme and necromancy.

Summary of events: Committee review process. Committee recommended that the book be retained. At School Board meeting a request to label the book as objectionable to some was requested as an alternative. Board asked the Committee to consider this request. Committee recommended that the book be retained without labeling. Book retained without labeling in decision by School Board, 5/28/90.

Coburg Elementary School, Eugene

- *A Special Trick* by Mercer Mayer (Juvenile, Book and Tape Set )

Summary of objections: Satanic art; following the recording of the story is an afterword which encourages the children to go back and look closely at the art work.

Summary of events: Staff review process. Book retained but tape removed in decision by Principal, 9/91.

Corvallis School District, Corvallis

- *The Witches* by Roald Dahl (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed that the books was frightening and confusing; children might believe that any woman could be a witch.

Summary of events: Committee review process. Committee recommended that the book be retained. Book retained in decision by Assistant Superintendent, 11/13/90.

Dallas School District, Dallas

- *Magic Boards (Vision of the Future Series)* by Saul Stadtmauer (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Concerns expressed about the entire subject matter; teaches how to build a magic board; not a game; concern that the result of using the book may be an increased potential for involvement in Satanic sects which is a growing and real threat to society and youth.

Summary of events: Committee review process. Committee recommended that book be retained. Book retained in decision by School Board, 9/91.

- *The Witches* by Roald Dahl (Juvenile)

  Summary of objections: Concern expressed that by making this book available the school does not uphold the mandate in the Oregon Revised Statutes that schools emphasize instruction in ethics and morality. Portrays degrading and demoralizing identity for a child; description of witch's face is distasteful and insensitive; undermines child's faith and trust in women.

  Summary of events: Committee review process. Request was to remove the book from all school libraries; book initially removed from one school library. Committee recommended that book be retained. Book retained in all school libraries by decision by School Board, 9/91.

Dry Hollow Elementary School, The Dalles

- *I Hate My Brother Harry* by Crescent Dragonwagon (Juvenile)

  Summary of objections: Concern expressed about inappropriate words such as "stupid", "spit", "hate", and actions such as throwing frogs into frosting mix and spitting into pudding; negative depiction of sibling quarrels and tensions.

  Summary of events: Committee review process. Committee recommended that the book be retained. Book retained in decision by School Board, 1/7/91.

Eagle Point Junior High School, Eagle Point

- *Eric* by Doris Lund (Young Adult)

  Summary of objections: Language in book considered obscene.

Summary of events: Challenged in junior high school library; challenged copy was expurgated by staff. Committee review process. Committee recommended that the book be retained without restriction in the library, that when used in the classroom an alternative selection be made available if desired, and that any expurgated copies be replaced with new editions. Book retained and other recommendations accepted by School Board, 1991.

Eagle Point School District, Eagle Point

- *A Light in the Attic* by Shel Silverstein (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed about one-third of the poems; exposed children to frightening or gory material.

Summary of events: Challenged in primary school (kindergarten through second grade) library. Committee review process. Committee recommended that the book be retained but the vote was a split decision. Final decision still pending.

Forest Hills Elementary School, Lake Oswego

- *The View from the Cherry Tree* by Willo Roberts (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Language considered objectionable – name of cat was S.O.B.

Summary of events: Committee review process. Book retained in decision by committee, 1991.

Hillsboro Elementary School District, Hillsboro

- *The Witches* by Roald Dahl (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Book considered degrading to children, disgusting and vile in its descriptions; portrayal of witchcraft is religious and harmful to children's self-esteem and trust of teachers and other adults.

Summary of events: Committee review process. Committee recommended that book be retained. Extra sensitivity and consideration advised when reading the book in class due to the images and strong descriptive language used in the book. Book retained in decision by School Board, 6/24/91.

Jefferson Middle School, Jefferson

- *Christian Science Monitor* (Newspaper)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed that the Christian Science Church spreads their views through the newspaper; helps support the Christian Science Church.

Summary of events: Committee review process. Committee recommended that the newspaper be retained. Newspaper retained in decision by School Board, 11/12/90.

- *A Girl Named Sooner* by Suzanne Clauser (Young Adult)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed about explicit sexual content for middle school children.

Summary of events: Committee review process. Committee recommended removal. Book removed in decision by the School Board. 1991.

Nyssa Middle School, Nyssa

- *Goodbye, Paper Doll* by Anne Snyder (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed about subject of rape, objectionable language, and adulterous actions.

Summary of events: Committee review process. Book retained in decision by Committee, 1991.

Reynolds School District(Fairview Elementary), Fairview

- *Underground Kingdom (Choose Your Own Adventure Series)* by Edward Packard (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed that children are encouraged to make choices toward unknown danger regardless of consequences; thought process easily transferable to experimentation with drugs, sex, alcohol, running away – no concern for danger just adventure.

Summary of events: Committee review process. Committee recommended that the book be retained. Book retained in decision by School Board, 12/4/90.

Salem-Keizer School District, Salem
- *Curses, Hexes, and Spells* by Daniel Cohen (Young Adult)

Summary of objections: Concerns expressed on behalf of "The Christian Community." Objections to photo of a witch performing a curse; information on how to cast a spell; reference to Christian occultists. Concern expressed that the material will result in gangs, crime, and satanic groups who choose to sacrifice animals. Author considered a known satanist.

Summary of events: Committee review process. Committee recommended that book be retained without restriction. Book retained in decision by School Board, 10/8/91.

West Albany High School, Albany
- *Poison: 87th Precinct Series* by Ed McBain (Adult)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed about objectionable language, the subject of poison, a picture of a distillation machine; not suitable reading material.

Summary of events: Committee review process. Book retained in decision by Committee, not for its literary value but because "no one has the right to censor materials for others," 12/90.

West Linn School District, West Linn
- *More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* by Alvin Schwartz (Juvenile)

Summary of objections: Concern expressed that frightening stories were inappropriate for children.

Summary of events: Committee review process. Committee recommended that book be retained. Book retained in decision by School Board, 8/91.

## *Four Year Overview*

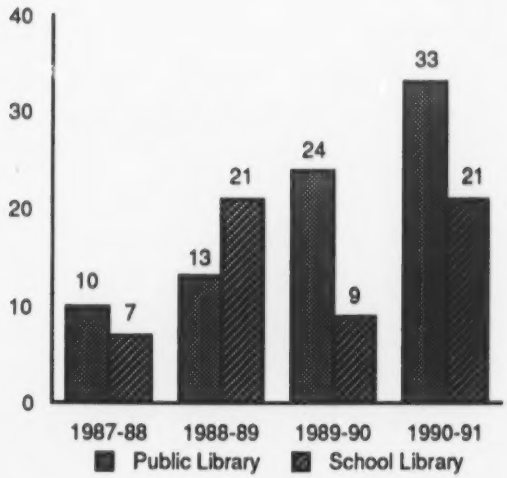
What follows is an overview of challenges against library materials in Oregon, based on the data reported since the establishment of the Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse considers itself to be in a development phase. Publicizing Clearinghouse services to libraries in Oregon still results in new libraries reporting data. Absolute conclusions about trends drawn from the collected data cannot be stated until the Clearinghouse is confident that the majority of challenges are being reported.

The following charts illustrate the data about intellectual freedom challenges in Oregon libraries, as reported to the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse between May, 1987 and June, 1991. The number of challenges illustrated for the 1989-90 year differs from the number published in the *Third Annual Report* in September, 1990. One library submitted seven additional challenges to library materials for that year, and all the charts reflect this new number.

Figure 1 illustrates the number of challenges in public libraries and the number of challenges in school library media centers. Over four years, there have been 138 challenges against library materials in Oregon libraries. Eighty of the challenged materials were owned by public libraries, and 58 by school library media centers.

**Figure 1**

Challenges Reported: By Type of Library




Overwhelmingly, citizens challenge materials designated for children and young adults more than materials for adults. Since 1987, there were 103 challenges submitted concerning

materials for children and young adults, and 35 submitted concerning materials for adults. Figure 2 illustrates whether the challenges each year were against materials for children and young adults, or against materials for adults.

**Figure 2**

Challenges Reported: By Age Designation

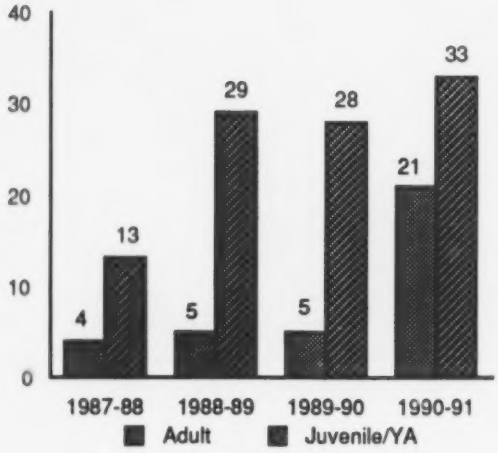



Figure 3 classifies the objections to materials each year into broad categories. Often multiple objections are cited against materials but the chart illustrates only one major objection for each challenge. Almost 43% of the library materials challenges indicated concerns about graphic sexual content or objectionable language.

**Figure 3**

Challenges Reported: By Type of Objection

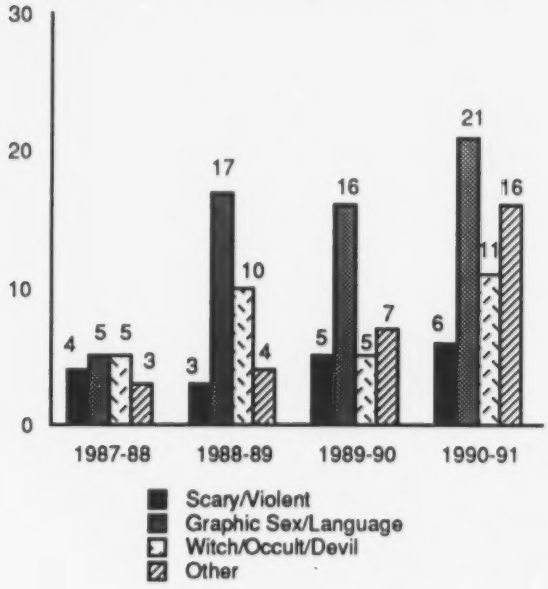
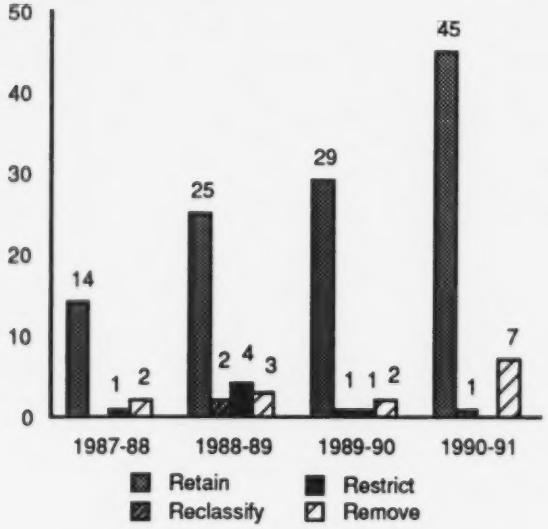



Figure 4 illustrates the final outcome in each challenge: whether the materials were **retained** without restriction in each library, **reclassified** to a different age or subject section in the library, **restricted** to a certain age group or restricted to access only with parental permission, or whether the materials were **removed** from a library. Transferring materials from one library in a district to another library is classified as a removal in this chart. In 82% of the challenges (113 times) the materials were retained on the library shelves with no restrictions. Materials were

removed from library shelves only 14 times or in 10% of the incidents. There were two decisions pending when the *Third Annual Report* was published in September, 1990. Final decisions have been made about these two challenges and the chart columns for 1989-90 illustrate this updated information. The decision about one challenge is still pending in 1990-91 and is not illustrated in Figure 4.

**Figure 4**

Challenges Reported: By Final Decision




Two additional challenges received by the Clearinghouse are not charted above. In 1989, nudity in a library art exhibit elicited a

challenge and in 1990, the costumes and songs in a science fiction/fantasy library program for young adults drew a challenge. The art exhibit remained on display, and the program challenge took place after the particular program. A letter was sent affirming the library's commitment to diversity in programming.

## *Information Requests to the Clearinghouse in 1990-91*

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse received 75 requests for information and assistance during its fourth year of operation. Twenty-four of the requests were for information about titles which were being formally challenged. Fourteen of the requests were for information to assist library staff members who were anticipating challenges. State Library Reference staff provided reviews, author information, information about literary awards and other information responding to these requests.

The Clearinghouse also received fourteen requests for assistance with policy issues in a number of areas including writing a materials selection policy, conducting a public hearing about a challenged book, confidentiality of library records, accepting gifts of religious books and videos, circulation of videotapes to minors, sponsoring programs and distributing coloring books developed by a timber issues group, and circulating books with racial stereotypes. The coordinator of the Clearinghouse provided law, if appropriate, statements of

American Library Association principles, sample policies, and suggested decision-making issues in these cases.

Citizens, students, and librarians directed twenty-three other requests to the Clearinghouse for information about the level of censorship attempts in Oregon, and specific information about challenged books for reports, presentations, and Banned Book Week displays.

## *Cooperative and Educational Activities in 1990-91*

The Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse was established in 1987 in a cooperative effort of the Oregon State Library, the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Library Association, the Oregon Educational Media Association, and the American Association of University Women. Clearinghouse cooperation with groups supporting intellectual freedom continued to be developed in 1990-91.

During Banned Books Week 1990 (September 22 – September 29), the State Librarian announced the publication of the *Third Annual Report of the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse* at a press conference sponsored in cooperation with the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon and Multnomah County Library. The press conference was one of many events planned as part of ACLU's *Uncensored Celebration*, a Portland metropolitan area celebration of free expression. The press conference and press releases accompanying the annual

report,sent to daily and weekly newspapers in Oregon, yielded television, radio, and newspaper coverage about intellectual freedom challenges in Oregon libraries.

In 1991, the Oregon Library Association Executive Board approved making the coordinator of the Clearinghouse an ex-officio member of the OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee. The Intellectual Freedom Committee's major work this year focused on monitoring legislation, which may have restricted access to ideas and information, introduced in the 1991 Oregon Legislative Assembly. The Legislature passed House Bill 2681, criminalizing possession of depiction of sexual conduct involving a child. After testimony from the Oregon Library Association, the House Judiciary Committee amended the bill to exempt libraries. The Intellectual Freedom Committee also focused on activities promoting the commemoration of Banned Books Week by libraries.

The coordinator of the Clearinghouse presented eight workshops or presentations at conferences, and in-service training sessions, sponsored by the Oregon Department of Education, Washington County Cooperative Library Service, Library and Information Network of Clackamas County, Oregon Educational Media Association, Lake Oswego Public Library, Portland State University, Portland Community College, and Lane Education Service District. A total of 203 persons were in attendance at all the presentations by the Clearinghouse.

The Clearinghouse sends regular summaries of the reconsideration reports received to the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, and People for the American Way. These two organizations report on Oregon public library and school intellectual freedom challenges in their publications, *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* (ALA, quarterly), *Banned Books Week Resource Manual* (ALA, annual), and *Attacks on the Freedom to Learn* (People for the American Way, annual.)

## *Clearinghouse Wins Award in 1990-91*

The American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Round Table awarded the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse the IFRT State Program Award. The State Program Award annually recognizes the most creative and successful intellectual freedom program produced by a state library association, intellectual freedom committee, or state intellectual freedom coalition. The $1,000 cash award was presented at the American Library Association annual conference in June, 1991. The award is being used to publish and distribute this annual report.

## *Index to Challenges Reported between 1987 and 1991*

The index is organized alphabetically by title of the challenged material. The final decision made concerning the challenge is indicated. For further information about each case check the appropriate annual report of the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse.

| Title | Decision | Annual Report |
|---|---|---|
| 85 Tests | Restrict | 3rd |
| Alanna | Retain | 2nd |
| Angel Dust Blues | Remove | 2nd |
| Anna Witch | Retain | 4th |
| Annie on My Mind | Retain | Call for info. |
| Annie on My Mind | Retain | 4th |
| Annie on My Mind | Retain | 2nd |
| Bang Bang You're Dead | Retain | 3rd |
| Bear Stories | Retain | 4th |
| Belinda | Retain | 1st |
| Bridge to Terabithia | Retain | Call for info. |
| Bumps in the Night | Retain | Call for info. |
| Bumps in the Night | Retain | 4th |
| Bumps in the Night | Retain | 2nd |
| Butterfly | Retain | 2nd |
| Caroline | Remove | 4th |
| Changing Bodies, Changing Lives | Retain | Call for info. |
| Changing Bodies, Changing Lives | Retain | 4th |
| Children's Access to Adult Materials | Retain | 4th |
| Christian Science Monitor | Retain | 4th |
| Curses, Hexes, and Spells | Retain | 4th |
| Cutting Edge | Retain | 1st |
| The Dallas Titans Get Ready for Bed | Retain | 2nd |
| Devils and Demons | Retain | 2nd |
| The Devil's Piper | Retain | 2nd |
| Don't Call Me Little Bunny | Retain | 2nd |
| Down a Dark Hall | Retain | 3rd |

| Title | Decision | Annual Report |
|---|---|---|
| Encyclopedia Brown: Case...Missing... | Retain | 4th |
| The Enormous Crocodile | Retain | 1st |
| Eric | Retain | 4th |
| Evangelical Commentary on the Bible | Retain | 4th |
| Father Christmas | Retain | 3rd |
| Father Christmas | Retain | 1st |
| Fire Storm | Retain | Call for info. |
| Five Chinese Brothers | Retain | 4th |
| Flowers in the Attic | Retain | 3rd |
| Footfalls | Retain | 1st |
| Forces that Drive (series of paintings) | Retain | 2nd |
| Fox at School | Retain | 3rd |
| The Friends of Emily Culpepper | Retain | 3rd |
| Gimme an H.E.L.P. | Retain | 3rd |
| A Girl From Yamhill | Reclassify | 4th |
| A Girl Named Sooner | Remove | 4th |
| God, the Universe, and Hot Fudge... | Retain | 2nd |
| Gods or Demons? | Retain | 2nd |
| Goodbye, Paper Doll | Retain | 4th |
| Halloween ABC | Reclass | 2nd |
| The Happy Prince and Other Stories | Retain | 1st |
| Henry | Retain | 3rd |
| Her Father's Daughter | Remove | 4th |
| Herbs and Things | Retain | 4th |
| Hist Whist | Retain | Call for info. |
| The Hog Book | Retain | 4th |
| The Horror of High Ridge | Remove | 3rd |
| Humbug Potion | Retain | 4th |
| I am Joseph | Retain | 4th |
| I Hate My Brother Harry | Retain | 4th |
| I Know I'm a Witch | Retain | 4th |
| I Know You, Al | Retain | 2nd |
| If Beale Street Could Talk | Remove | 2nd |
| Illustrated Encyclopedia of Health | Remove | 4th |
| The Impact Zone | Retain | 2nd |
| Impressions Reading Series | Retain | 1st |
| Improvised Radio Jamming... | Retain | 4th |
| In a Dark, Dark Room | Retain | 4th |
| In the Hand of the Goddess | Retain | 2nd |
| IT | Retain | 4th |

| Title | Decision | Annual Report |
|---|---|---|
| Just Good Friends | Remove | 1st |
| Karen Kepplewhite is the Worlds... | Retain | 2nd |
| The Keys to Tulsa | Retain | 3rd |
| The Kid Who Only Hit Homers | Retain | 2nd |
| The Lake | Retain | 4th |
| The Last Mission | Retain | 3rd |
| A Light in the Attic | Retain | 3rd |
| A Light in the Attic | Pending | 4th |
| Liza Lou & the Yeller Belly Swamp | Retain | 2nd |
| Loc'ed After Dark | Retain | 3rd |
| Longarm Series (various titles) | Remove | 1st |
| Magic Boards | Retain | 4th |
| The Magic Grandfather | Restrict | 2nd |
| Magick in Theory and Practice | Retain | 1st |
| Mariska II | Remove | 4th |
| Miracle Game | Retain | 4th |
| More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark | Retain | 1st |
| More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark | Retain | 4th |
| Mr. Wheatfield's Loft | Retain | 2nd |
| My Life as a Body | Retain | 4th |
| My Life as a Body | Reclass | 2nd |
| Nelson and Winnie Mandela | Retain | 1st |
| Night Riding | Retain | 4th |
| Nightmares: Poems to Trouble... | Restrict | 1st |
| Nuts | Retain | 3rd |
| Official Catholic Directory | Retain | 4th |
| Paradise Motel | Retain | 3rd |
| Parchment House | Retain | 3rd |
| Perez and Martina | Retain | 1st |
| Poison: 87th Precinct Series | Retain | 4th |
| Porcelain Cat | Retain | 4th |
| Prelude to World War II | Retain | 2nd |
| Presumed Innocent | Retain | 4th |
| The Prince in Waiting | Retain | 2nd |
| Razored Saddles | Retain | 3rd |
| The Restless Dead: Ghostly Tales ... | Retain | 2nd |
| Robbie and the Leap Year Blues | Retain | 3rd |
| The Ruby in the Smoke | Reclass | 3rd |

| Title | Decision | Annual Report |
|---|---|---|
| Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark | Retain | 3rd |
| Science Fiction/Fantasy Program | NA | Call for info. |
| Seal of Dracula | Retain | 3rd |
| Shy Charles | Retain | 4th |
| The Severed Soul | Retain | 4th |
| Single Solutions | Retain | 4th |
| A Snake's Body | Retain | 2nd |
| Some Swell Pup | Retain | 1st |
| Space Station Seventh Grade | Retain | 2nd |
| A Special Trick | Remove | 4th |
| The Stand | Restrict | 2nd |
| Suspects | Retain | 4th |
| Tapping the Vein, #2 | Remove | 4th |
| Tender is the Storm | Retain | 4th |
| The Thanksgiving Treasure | Retain | Call for info. |
| Then Again, Maybe I Won't | Retain | 2nd |
| They Were Strong and Good | Retain | 4th |
| To Take A Dare | Restrict | 2nd |
| View from the Cherry Tree | Retain | 4th |
| View from the Cherry Tree | Retain | 3rd |
| Underground Kingdom | Retain | 4th |
| Wait til Helen Comes | Retain | 3rd |
| Wideacre | Remove | 3rd |
| The Witch's Sister | Retain | 1st |
| The Witches | Retain | 4th |
| The Witches | Retain | 4th |
| The Witches | Retain | 4th |
| The Witches | Retain | 4th |
| The Witches of Worm | Retain | 1st |
| The Witch's Handbook | Retain | 4th |
| The Wolfman of Beacon Hill | Retain | 2nd |
| The Woman Who Rides Like A Man | Retain | 2nd |
| The Women's Encyc. of Myths... | Restrict | 2nd |
| A Wrinkle in Time | Retain | 3rd |
| Zeralda's Ogre | Remove | 2nd |